



THE
BLUEPRINT SERIES
Volume 3

Building...

MISSIONS VISION

Month by Month



Photo illustration: Jim Whitmer Photography

Created by Paul Brannan

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CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	5
INTRODUCTION	6
SECTION 1 - WHERE DO WE START?	7
Part 1 - Lay the Foundation	9
The Importance of a Missions' Team.....	9
Keep the Team Involved.....	9
Make Sure Leadership Attends All District and National Missions' Activities.....	10
An Annual Convention Is a Must	10
Part 2 - Identify the Tools That Are Readily Available to You	11
From World Missions.....	11
From our Partners.....	12
SECTION 2 - MISSIONS SUNDAY – WINDOW ON THE WORLD	13
Part 1 – Missions Sunday Is A Key to Success	14
An Annual Missions Convention Is Not Enough.....	14
A Successful Missions Sunday Doesn't Just Happen.....	14
The Monthly Presentation for Missions Sunday Should Be a Highlight for That Service.....	14
Missions Sunday Is Not a Penny March.....	15
Part 2 - Ideas to Make Every Missions Sunday Special	16
Utilize the Pentecostal Evangel.....	16
Use the monthly DVD, Newsbreak.....	16
Pray Around the World.....	16
Keep the Congregation Informed About Faith Promise Giving.....	17
Send a Monthly Letter with a Missions Offering Envelope.....	17
Send a Quarterly Receipt of Faith Promise Giving.....	17
Purchase Flags Representative of the Nations Where You Support Missionaries.....	17
Call a Missionary Family.....	17
Include Your Youth with Music and Drama.....	17
Share Excerpts from Missionaries' Letters.....	17
Give Opportunities for Personal Testimonies.....	17
Vary the Focus of Your Window on the World from Month to Month.....	18
Additional Ideas for "Window on the World".....	19

Part 3 - Plan Missions Sundays for a Year at a Time	20
The Advantages of Planning Ahead.....	20
Annual Planner.....	21
Sample Missions Sunday Program.....	24
Planning for the Year.....	25
Pre-Convention Planning.....	31
SECTION 3 - WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO TO INCREASE MISSIONS VISION?	38
Part 1 – Plan A Mid-Year Mini-Convention	39
Part 2 – Schedule Frequent Missionary Speakers	40
At least quarterly.....	40
Schedule Missionaries to Speak In Different Types of Services.....	40
Missionaries Are Not a Pulpit Supply.....	40
Part 3 – Coordinated Prayer for Missionaries Is A Key Element	42
Make Prayer for Missions a Regular Part of Church Life.....	42
Encourage Private Prayer for Missions.....	42
Equip Your Congregation for More Effective Prayer	42
Part 4 – Create an Attractive Missions Display	44
Where Should It Be Located?.....	44
What Is Needed to Create a “World Harvest” Display?.....	44
Part 5 – Develop A Strong Missions Section In The Church Library	45
Part 6 – Plan a Missions Trip	47
Ambassadors In Mission (AIM).....	47
MAPS Construction Teams.....	48
Prayer Task Force.....	49
Part 7 – Introduce Support Ministries to Encourage Giving	50
Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade (BGMC).....	50
Speed the Light	50
Light for the Lost.....	50
Women’s Ministries.....	50
Senior Adult Ministries.....	51
Part 8 – Keep the Missionaries before the People	52
Missionary Directory.....	52
Missionary Calendar.....	52
Call to Prayer.....	52
Keep the Missionaries before the Congregation – Literally.....	52

Part 9 – Offer Classes on Missions	53
An Elective in Sunday school or Small Study Group.....	54
New Convert’s Class.....	54
Membership Class.....	55
Part 10 – Don’t Overlook the Children	56
Ideas, Ideas and More Ideas.....	56
It’s Not Just About Money.....	61
Part 11 – Keep the Youth Focused On Missions	63
Ideas in Brief.....	63
Is It Just Another Project Or Are They Being Established In The Faith?.....	67
Part 12 – Pastor, You Are the Key to Success	68
Plan Sufficient Time In The Missions’ Sunday.....	68
Participate In Monthly Missions’ Team Meetings.....	68
Schedule a Missionary Speaker, At Least Quarterly.....	69
Preach On Missions, Soul-Winning or Evangelism At Least Once Each Quarter.....	69
Set the Example in Prayer, Giving and Caring For The Lost.....	69
Part 13 – Put Missions on the Platform, Not in the Budget!	71

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

When I began to write this manual, I wanted to create a tool that would be of assistance to that pastor and missions team that felt they needed something more to help them build and maintain a clear missions vision within their congregation. They were already convinced of the need, they were just searching for the right tools.

I set out to create such a manual. With forty-four years of world missions involvement, having served as a missionary, missionary administrator, district missions director and currently as the coordinator for the Missions Awareness Team, and having conducted hundreds of missions conventions in your churches, my life has been eternally affected by the tens of thousands of experiences during those years.

I am indebted to each person who has touched my life in a meaningful way. I am grateful to those who believed in me so many years ago, for because of them, many doors of ministry were opened to Betty and me. I am even grateful, now, for those who didn't believe in me, because they motivated me to try a little harder and, at times, I needed that.

They say that no man is an island. That became very obvious as I came to the latter part of this manual. I reached a point where I needed ideas. Not for me. Ideas to share with you. Ideas for ministry with the children and others for the youth. Where do you get these ideas? Where else, but from the ones who are ministering successfully to the children and the youth.

Here is where I owe a huge debt that I will never be able to repay to my life's partner, my treasured wife, Betty. She called scores and scores of churches, pastors, children's pastors and youth pastors. She spent long hours over many days seeking ideas from many parts of the country.

We are grateful for all who responded. I trust that their ideas will spark an idea or two of your own. Each person who contributed ideas is listed with their submission.

This is a combination manual/workbook since Section 2 is design for planning your Missions Sunday presentations for a full year. May the Lord bless its use.

Not every idea will work in every group. That was never the intent, but by sharing ideas we expand our vision and broaden our horizon.

May we join together in praying, "Lord, send revival to our children and our youth, and give us wisdom to lead them in their commitment to reach a dying world!"

Your partner in the harvest,

Paul Brannan

INTRODUCTION

Jesus gave the Great Commission, not only to the corporate body, but also to each individual believer. His assignment was so important that all four Gospels and the book of Acts include this command. If the Holy Spirit thought Jesus' command was important enough to repeat five times, it should be important enough to get our attention.

The purpose of the church is missions. Our mandate and responsibility are to make certain that the gospel reaches every corner of this earth. Unfortunately, two-thirds of the U. S. Assemblies of God churches are not taking advantage of the tools and helps made available to assist them in building strong missions awareness within the congregation and preparing the membership to reach the world for Christ. What a tragedy!

The following five elements are absolutely necessary for building a solid base for missions in the local church:

1. A missions team
2. An annual missions convention
3. A well planned presentation for Missions Sunday every month
4. Frequent missionary speakers
5. A regular missions' prayer emphasis

The pastor can't do it alone, nor should he. Creating a missions team will make the pastor's load lighter and create a more effective world outreach. Volume 1 of the "Blue Print Series" entitled *Building Missions Leadership in the Local Church* is available to assist you in creating an effective missions' team.

The missions convention, the cornerstone for any successful effort to establish missions in the local church, seeks to broaden vision and increase knowledge of world need. Its primary result is a personal commitment from each believer to support missions each month with their faith promise. Volume 2, *Building Missions Support with an Annual Missions Convention*, will guide you, step by step in planning and conducting a successful convention.

This, Volume 3, *Building Missions Visions Month by Month* focuses on keeping missions before the congregation all year. The well planned Missions Sunday presentation helps fan the flame that was ignited when they made their monthly faith promise commitment. This manual will assist you in planning a full year of Missions Sundays at the same time, making for a more balanced approach and assuring that each presentation is well prepared. Additional ideas are shared that can be implemented throughout the year to keep missions' interest high.

Regularly scheduled prayer for missions is critical to the success of missions, both at home and abroad. Volume 4, *Building Missions Effectiveness through Prayer*, contains scores of ideas used by other congregations in making their missions prayer emphasis a key part of their missions outreach.

Frequent missionary visits personalize missions, giving it a face. Their visits help believers see that reaching a lost world is about people, not programs. The passion for soul-winning shared by missionaries motivates many to prayer and is instrumental in leading many others into future missionary service. Volume 5, *Building Missions Partnership through the Missionary Visit*, will help you get the most from each missionary's visit.

Every worthwhile effort should include at least one goal. The steps we take to realize that goal are called strategy. So strategy is the vehicle that will hopefully lead us to our goals, both short-term and long-term.

The five necessary elements for building missions are simple and the goal is equally simple. We want to involve every believer in fulfilling the Great Commission by giving, praying or going.

This manual/workbook will guide you in preparing effective missions Sunday presentations, keeping missions exciting and fresh throughout the year.

Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you as you read the following pages. Let God show you the steps necessary to transform your congregation into a "Great Commission Church".

SECTION 1

Where Do We Start?

**Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with
many advisers they succeed.**

Proverbs 15:22 NIV

**Commit to the LORD whatever you do,
and your plans will succeed.**

Proverbs 16:3 NIV

PART 1

LAY THE FOUNDATION

The Importance Of A Missions Team

The primary purpose of the church is to spread the gospel. That is called missions. All else is or should be built around that central purpose. And let's face it. The pastor can't do it alone!

Many churches have a missions committee. The problem with committees is that the very word committee suggests a group seated in a circle talking, talking, and talking. But we need more than talk. We need action. That is why I like to call it a missions team. The word team suggests action or movement, cooperation, excitement and winning: Get the idea?

An active missions team will help the pastor cast vision for reaching a lost world. A missions team can involve a large part of the congregation in missions through delegation. The benefits are two-fold: Much more is accomplished and criticism is minimized because people don't criticize what they are involved in doing.

For more information on how to build a missions team and guidelines for its functions, see volume 1, *Building Missions Leadership in the Local Church*.

Keep The Team Involved Throughout The Year

The missions team is not a group that meets occasionally to rubberstamp plans already made by the pastor or board. They are a hands-on work force ready to assist the church leadership in creating opportunities for the membership to move into obedience to the Great Commission.

The team will be working throughout the year on the planning, not only of their next missions convention, but also of the conventions for two or three years in advance. They will constantly fine-tune their Missions Sunday program and coordinate their weekly or monthly prayer program for missions.

The list goes on and on, but I'm getting ahead of myself. In short, the missions team will assure that the five essential elements for building missions in the local church are in place. Let me think. What were those five elements again?

1. An active missions team
2. Annual missions convention (See volume 2, *Building Missions Support with an Annual Missions Convention*)
3. Monthly missions Sunday (See Section 2 of this manual)
4. Regularly scheduled prayer for missions (See volume 4, *Building Missions Effectiveness through Prayer*)
5. Frequent missionary speakers (See volume 5, *Building Missions Partnership through the Missionary Visit*)

Make Sure Missions Team Members Attend All District And National Missions' Activities

It is difficult to develop a world vision when you know nothing about the rest of the world. The best way to open the world to your team members is to take trips to the mission field. The next best way is to attend those meetings conducted on both the district and national levels that bring the mission field to you. Well, maybe not all of it, but enough so that you begin to get a glimpse of what it is like.

When you begin to see the need, that is when a burden begins to form and then a vision. Why do you think Jesus said, "Look at the fields that are white, ready to harvest"? They had to see the need first before they would feel the need.

Once the team has "seen" the need, they can carry that vision back to the church and expose the congregation to a new way of seeing the world. In other words, they will begin to see the world as Jesus sees it!

An Annual Missions Convention Is A Must

Speaking frankly, it is sometimes difficult to convince a pastor to conduct a first-time missions convention in his church. But, do you know what is almost as difficult? Getting that pastor to conduct a convention the next year! He usually gives one of two reasons for not conducting a second convention. He said it was too much work meaning he and his wife tried to do it all. Or, they were just too busy. Translated that means, they waited too long and the calendar filled up with things. Not necessarily important things, just things.

I wouldn't go so far as to say that it does no good to conduct a convention if you don't continue the following year. It is obvious, however, that the major impact of that convention dissipates quickly and little fruit will remain.

When church leadership determines to bring their congregation into obedience to Christ's command, that commitment is long-term. It should be from now until Jesus comes. Not from now until finances are bad or from now until we go into a new building program. Not from now until we change pastors but from now until He breaks the clouds of glory! After all, He didn't request that we reach the world. He commanded it!

PART 2

IDENTIFY THE TOOLS AVAILABLE TO YOU

When making plans for missions Sunday it is helpful to know what tools are available to make your efforts more effective. AGWM is constantly searching for new ideas and creating new materials for your use. Listed below are some of the items available to you. Some are free of charge while other items are provided at minimal cost to your church.

FROM WORLD MISSIONS

- **Toll Free Number** to order catalogs and materials: 1 (800) 988-6568
Or call (417) 862-3420, extensions 2061/2071
- **DVD**
 - ANNUAL Theme Video (DVD)
 - MONTHLY 2-4 Minute Clips
 - Newsbreak** – For Adults
 - Newsbreak** – Translated into Spanish
 - WorldBeat** – For Teens
 - Go 360** – For ChildrenAnnual subscription \$48: DVD mailed monthly includes all 4 formats
- **PowerPoint Presentations**

Can be downloaded by topics at homepage: mat.forallnations.com
or you can purchase a CD with 17 PowerPoint presentations prepared for the local church. Collection #1 is for the congregation. Collection #2 is to assist and inform the missions committee and Collection #3 contains illustrated sermons on missions and soul-winning. Order your copy by calling (417) 272-6095.
- **Web Site**
worldmissions.ag.org

Downloadable items on Web site under “Quick Navigation” tab:

 1. Commitment Cards (Faith Promise Cards and Pledge Forms)
 2. Short-term (MAPS) Application Packet
 3. MAPS Builders
 4. World Missions Clip Art
- **CATALOG And ORDER FORM**

Viewable at worldmissions.ag.org/resources/resources.cfm (Order Form is downloadable)
- **Call To Prayer**

Missionary Photo Directory (Published twice yearly)
- **Resource Manual**

Into All the World (Available in both English and Spanish)
Practical Helps for Pastors and Missions Committees

- **The Blueprint Series**
 - Volume 1, **Building Missions Leadership in the Local Church**
 - Volume 2, **Building Missions Support with an Annual Missions Convention**
 - Volume 3, **Building Missions Vision, Month By Month**
 - Volume 4, **Building Missions Effectiveness through Prayer**
 - Volume 5, **Building Missions Partnership through the Missionary Service**
- **The Checklist Manual** – A digest of the five manuals listed above. Five PowerPoint presentations are available for teaching purposes and may be secured by calling (417) 272-6095.
- **Note:** All of the above materials are available in both English and Spanish.
- **Missions Touch Screen**
 - Displays Countries and Missionaries Active in World Missions
 - E-mail: worldtouchscreen@ag.org
- **Books**
 - Heroes of the Faith series (Volumes 1 – 5) – see catalog
- **Today's Pentecostal Evangel**, World Missions Edition
 - First Sunday Edition each month: Call 1 (800) 641-4310
- **Missions Convention In A Box**
 - Everything needed to conduct a Missions Convention in a church of up to 75-80 in attendance. (For churches having a first-time Missions Convention or the first one in at least three years) Call (800) 988-6568

FROM OUR PARTNERS (SUPPORT MINISTRIES)

- **BOYS and GIRLS MISSIONARY CRUSADE (BGMC)**
 - An excellent selection of video clips and CDs are available, presenting missions from a child's perspective. Call (417) 862-2781, ext. 4009 or check bgmc.ag.org
- **Light for the Lost**
 - To order training materials and promotional supplies call 1 (800) 988-0292
 - Or visit their web site at lftl.ag.org
- **Mission America**
 - Convention materials and resources promoting U.S. Missions are now available by calling 1 (800) 988-6568 where you may order your convention materials for both U.S. and World Missions.
- **Speed the Light**
 - To obtain promotional materials, call (417) 862-2781, ext. 4029 or log on to youth.ag.org
- **Women's Ministries**
 - For resources call (417) 862-2781, ext. 4060 or check their on-line store at womensministries.ag.org

SECTION 2

MISSIONS SUNDAY - WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Jesus said, “ ...open your eyes and look at the fields ready for harvest now. Already, the one who harvests is being paid and is gathering crops for eternal life. So the one who plants and the one who harvests celebrate at the same time.

John 4:35-37 NCV

PART 1

MISSIONS SUNDAY IS A KEY TO SUCCESS

An Annual Missions Convention Is Not Enough

The average pastor believes that if their church conducts an annual missions convention, the congregation is missions minded. But experience shows that within three months following the convention, monthly faith promise income will experience a sharp decline when a consistent effort is not made to keep missions before the congregation. The primary cause of decreased faith promise giving through the year is a failure to keep missions fresh and exciting. A well-planned monthly Missions Sunday will help maintain a high level of faith promise giving throughout the year, possibly even exceeding the faith promise commitments made during the convention.

A Successful Missions Sunday Doesn't Just Happen

Unfortunately most churches put little or no planning into their missions Sunday presentations. In many cases it becomes nothing more than an announcement that it is missions Sunday and your faithful giving is appreciated. But it is difficult for the congregation to maintain a high level of commitment to missions if it is not a priority to church leadership.

Missions Sunday seems to come around so often that it catches many leaders by surprise, and unfortunately, unprepared. Why not plan your missions Sunday program for a full year at one time? There are several advantages:

1. Your program will be well planned.
2. Planning a full year at a time will help you cover all the bases, giving balance to the presentations.
3. It will remove the monthly pressure for those responsible for planning missions Sunday.
4. It will educate and inspire the congregation.
5. A well planned missions Sunday will keep the people excited about supporting missions with their monthly faith promises, thus maintaining active most of the faith promises made during the annual convention.

The Monthly Presentation For Missions Sunday Should Be A Highlight For That Service

The monthly missions Sunday presentation does not require the whole service. It may vary in length from 3 to 10 minutes according to the material used. It should be given a prominent place in the worship service schedule, communicating its importance. Giving the monthly missions slot a name, such as "Window on the World" will help define its purpose.

Local circumstances and customs will influence your decision as to which Sunday of the month is preferable. Most churches have chosen the first Sunday of each month for their "Window on the World".

Although you are not obligated to choose the first Sunday, there are advantages to doing so. The World Edition of the Pentecostal Evangel, released for use on the first Sunday of each month, is prepared by Assemblies of God World Missions. The theme each month is underscored with additional material in Newsbreak, a monthly DVD available by subscription.

The use of these quality tools will enhance your monthly presentation while educating and motivating the congregation.

Missions Sunday Is Not A Penny March

It is a focus on a lost world and it deserves our best, not our leftovers!

A well-planned "Window on the World" each month will help train the congregation in planned giving, making their faith promises, committed at the missions convention, a reality and not an empty pledge.

The ultimate success of the faith promises raised at the annual missions convention will be determined by how effectively the monthly missions Sunday presentations are planned!

PART 2

IDEAS TO MAKE MISSIONS SUNDAY SPECIAL

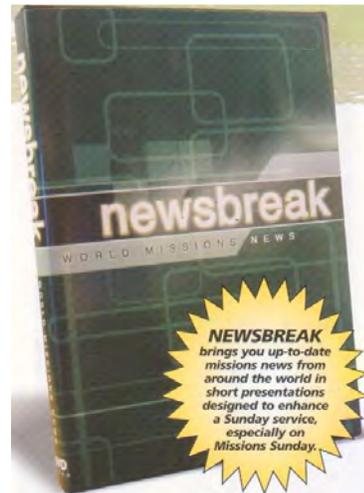
Utilize The Pentecostal Evangel

- Coordinate your “Window on the World” focus with the theme of the world edition of The Pentecostal Evangel released on the first Sunday of each month.
- The theme of the monthly world edition is coordinated with the theme of the monthly videos available from AGWM.



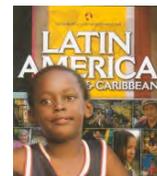
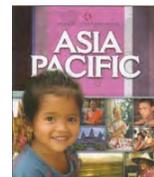
Use The Monthly DVD Produced By AGWM

- Experience has shown that monthly missions giving will be as much as 30% higher when the monthly DVD is shown prior to receiving the faith promise giving.
- There are three presentations available by subscription each month:
 1. News Break – This is created for missions Sunday.
 2. World Beat – A missions clip prepared especially for youth by youth.
 3. Go 360 – Children are not forgotten since a monthly missions presentation is available just for them.
- All three of these items are available on DVD \$48 yearly. A Spanish clip is available each month. To order video subscriptions call (417) 862-3420.



Pray Around The World

1. Africa
 2. Asia Pacific
 3. Eurasia
 4. Europe
 5. Northern Asia
 6. Latin American and the Caribbean
 7. Specialized Ministries
- Share a request from each region and have corporate prayer.
 - Publish these requests in the bulletin on Missions Sunday.



Keep The Congregation Informed About Faith Promise Giving

- Publish the current missions giving in the bulletin each Missions Sunday.
- Share faith-building words to encourage continued support for missions.

Send A Monthly Letter With A Missions Offering Envelope

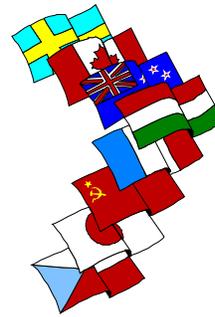
If sent the week before Missions Sunday, it will serve as a strong reminder of their faith promise and will encourage faithfulness in giving.

Send A Quarterly Receipt Of Faith Promise Giving

It is amazing how this will affect faithfulness in giving. It serves as a reminder without the sense of nagging.

Purchase Flags Representative Of The Nations Where You Support Missionaries

- Display a flag from a different nation each month for “Window on the World”
- Make that nation your prayer focus for the day.
- Flags are readily available from many suppliers and can be purchased in a variety of sizes and qualities. A partial list of suppliers follows, but no endorsement is made, although each has been used with satisfaction by some of our churches.



Ozark Flag Distributors, www.ozarkflag.com (800) 288-3101

Frontier Flags, www.frontierflags.com (800) 658-0413

Flags, Etc. Inc. info@flagpeople.com (650) 343-3017

Call A Missionary Family

- Call the missionary in advance and set up the phone appointment.
- Amplify the conversation through your sound system so the congregation can hear.
- Project their photo on the screen while talking with the missionaries.
- Interview the family.
- Ask for their prayer needs and have the congregation pray for them while the missionaries are still on the line.



Include Your Youth With Music And Drama

- Use a skit with a missions theme.
- Present a human video with a missions song.
- Don't forget mime.
- The more people who get involved, the more successful your effort to build missions awareness.

Share Excerpts From Missionaries' Letters

- This can be done on a limited basis.

- Share excerpts only when the content is so exciting and so urgent that it should not be ignored.
- All missionary newsletters should be posted on your “World Harvest” bulletin board.

Give Opportunities For Personal Testimonies

- Share a testimony from a member who has experienced divine blessing and provision resulting from making a “Faith Promise”.
- The congregation will better identify with the pew than with the pulpit.
- Others will be inspired to faithfulness by these examples of victory.

Vary The Focus Of Your “Window On The World” From Month To Month

Some months you may wish to focus on regions of the world such as Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Eurasia or Latin America/Caribbean. Some months you may wish to spotlight ministries such as Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade or Speed the Light. Of course, you will want to take advantage of the monthly video series NewsBreak.

It Will Take Some Planning, But It Will Be Well Worth Your Effort

- Both giving and missions awareness will increase.
- You will be blessed because of your obedience to Christ’s command.
- Begin your planning with confidence. God’s Word assures us that our efforts are not in vain when we lead our people in generous giving as a life-style.

One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. Proverbs 11:24-25 (NIV)

Whatever We Do For The Master Deserves To Be Done The Right Way!

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)

SO, LET’S PLAN “WINDOW ON THE WORLD” AS THOUGH IT WERE A LIFE OR DEATH MATTER... IT MAY BE, YOU KNOW.

PART 3

PLAN MISSIONS SUNDAYS FOR A YEAR AT A TIME

The Advantages Of Planning Ahead

We usually get just about what we plan for. I know that's not good grammar, but it communicates a truth. Most church leadership has the best of intentions following the missions convention. They hope missions giving will be fairly stable during the year, but they really won't be surprised if it begins to drop. To be truthful, past experience leads them to expect it.

They really intend to keep enthusiasm up throughout the year with a well-planned "Window on the World" each month, but as the year rushes by, they just don't find the time. The month just goes by too quickly. It seems they hardly finished last month's missions Sunday and here it comes again!

Don't feel alone! It happens to hundreds of pastors and leaders across America. Instead of giving up or beating yourself up, let's find a way out of the dilemma.

There is a simple solution. You have a missions team so it's time to put them to work. If you don't have a team it is time to form one, now. Have the missions team do the major part of the planning for a full year of "Windows on the World" at one time. That's right. The team can create the framework or the general plans for 12 months of missions presentations at one sitting.

There are several advantages. Let's look at a few:

1. Seeing the year as a whole, they can plan a more balanced program.
2. It will give them time to include items that they might not be able to include when planning month by month.
3. It reduces the stress of preparing something at the last minute.
4. Each team member has ample time to prepare for their participation.
5. Each "Window on the World" can be a quality presentation.

When the team has done this, they can rest assured they have joined their hands with God's purpose of redeeming mankind. How? They are inspiring and motivating faithfulness on the part of the people of their congregation in their faith promise giving. That is no small thing!

And the pastor can rest assured that the time set aside for missions during each "Window on the World" is one of the best investments of time every month!

ANNUAL PLANNER

Month _____

Our missions team will meet this month on _____

Our missionary speaker(s) this month will be _____

Our feature for missions Sunday "Window on the World" this month will be

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PRESENTATION FOR MISSIONS SUNDAY, _____, 200_

Month Date

Missions News (For the latest missions news, prayer requests and testimonies go to www.worldmissions.ag.org)

Missions Prayer Needs:

Check missionary newsletters for prayer requests

Today's Focus: *Africa*

Available Resources: *Project video clip from NewsBreak*

Faith Promise Giving PLACE THIS INFO IN THE BULLETIN

Faith Promise total for the year 6,000

Missions giving due to date..... 1,500

Missions offerings received to date... 1,800

Excess or shortfall..... 300 PTL

Receive the Missions Offering

PRESENTATION FOR MISSIONS SUNDAY, _____, 200__
Month Date

Missions News - For the latest mission's news, prayer requests and testimonies go to www.worldmissions.ag.org

Missions Prayer Needs:

Today's Focus: _____

Available Resources: _____

Faith Promise Giving _____

Faith Promise total for the year _____

Missions giving due to date..... _____

Missions offerings received to date... _____

Excess or shortfall..... _____

Receive the Missions Offering

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Receive the Missions Offering

IT IS TIME TO CHECK YOUR PLANS FOR YOUR NEXT CONVENTION

Set dates for the convention

Our convention will include the dates from _____ to _____

Prepare schedule

Our convention will consist of the following:

Type of service	Date	Speaker
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
<i>Faith Promise Service</i>	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Confirm speakers:

_____ for _____

_____ for _____

_____ for _____

Be sure to order your Missions Convention Planning Kit now from
Assemblies of God World Missions, U. S. Relations
1445 Boonville Avenue
Springfield, MO 67802

Or call: 1 (800) 988-6568 or (417) 862-3420

For step-by-step assistance in planning your convention, ask for Volume 2, Building Missions Support With an Annual Missions Convention.

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Receive the Missions Offering

SECTION 3

What Else Can We Do To Increase Missions Vision?

Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

John 4:35 NIV

That night Paul had a vision. He saw a man from Macedonia in northern Greece, pleading with him, "Come over here and help us."

Acts 16:9 NLT

Part 1

PLAN A MID-YEAR CONVENTION

Many churches have found that conducting a mini-convention six months after the annual convention gives a big boost to the overall missions effort. These pastors say they conduct a mid-year convention for usually for one of two reasons: either their church exists in a very transient area such as military bases, etc. or the church is growing rapidly and they don't want to wait many months to expose the new converts or members to the faith promise plan. Those coming into the church a month or two following the annual convention would have to wait as long as eight to ten months before having an opportunity to make a faith promise.

There is, undoubtedly, a third benefit for every church, even those not located in transient areas nor experiencing great growth. A mid-year mini-convention will renew the missions focus for the individual believer and encourage each one to be faithful in their faith promise giving.

Some churches plan a full schedule of activities similar to their annual convention, meaning that their faith promises are set up for six month periods, but most use the concept to give a boost, continuing with the yearly faith promise challenge. In either case, those making a faith promise during the mini-convention would understand that it would be effective until their next convention.

The average mid-year convention will occupy one Sunday, usually with no banquet. This would be a great opportunity, however, to have a "Partners Banquet" for all who made a faith promise during the annual convention. It would be a smaller group but it would recognize the importance of those who carry the missions vision there in the local congregation.

One missionary speaker may be invited to receive faith promises on Sunday morning and remain to speak again on Sunday evening if the church has a Sunday evening service. Others will invite a separate speaker for the evening service or to attend house meeting, as the case may be.

There would be little additional cost involved except for speakers since you could use the same theme materials used in the annual convention just six months earlier. Another idea is to save all of the theme materials from year to year and recycle them two or three years down the road for the mini-convention.

Part 2

SCHEDULE FREQUENT MISSIONARY SPEAKERS

Of all the elements necessary for building a strong missions vision in the local church, inviting missionary speakers is by far the easiest. It really doesn't require a lot of creativity or extra work. It only requires a few phone calls and some basic provisions for the visiting missionaries.

Last year well over 5,000 Assembly of God congregations were deprived of a missionary visit because the leadership of those churches did not make provision for that vital ministry to their congregations. To say that one believes in missions but never invites a missionary speaker is an incredible contradiction!

If the pastor doesn't lead the congregation into obedience to Christ's command to reach the whole world, who will? And what will happen to the pastor who fails in this responsibility? It is a fearful thought!

Schedule A Missionary At Least Quarterly

The missions convention with the faith promise challenge is the cornerstone for building missions vision within a congregation, but its results will dissipate quickly if steps are not taken to keep missions interest high. Having frequent missionary speakers in your church is one of those steps.

Scheduling a missionary once each quarter should be a minimum, not your goal. Exposing your congregation to representatives from four different areas of the world during the year could certainly not be considered overload.

Schedule Missionaries To Speak In Different Types Of Services

Not everyone in your congregation attends all of the services. Let's assume that you have the typical Sunday morning and evening plus Wednesday evening service schedule. Some may be absent from the sanctuary every Sunday morning because they are working with the children. Others are committed to the nursery every Sunday evening. Still others work with Royal Rangers and Missionettes on Wednesdays.

If you consistently schedule your missionary speakers for Sunday evening, those who only attend on Sunday mornings plus those committed to other church ministry during that time will never hear a missionary message. That is why it is important to occasionally schedule a missionary for each type of service, thus giving exposure to all of those who are a part of your congregation.

Missionaries Are Not A Pulpit Supply

The presence of the pastor is critical when the missionary visits. The rhythm is broken when the missionary has to minister in the pastor's absence. The purpose of the missionary's visit is not only to minister to the congregation, but also to interact with the pastor concerning finances and monthly support. This is not possible when the pastor is absent.

Even when the pastor has made every arrangement for the missionary, it is still awkward. Let's face it. The pastor's absence can communicate a lack of concern.

When the missionary comes to your church, show the congregation just how important missions really is to you as pastor.

Having missionaries come throughout the year is a key to a successful missions outreach. Missionaries impart vision and burden, qualities needed by the local congregation. A missionary visit should never be considered an interruption but rather an opportunity. With foresight and planning, most churches could have a missionary visit each month. If finance is a concern, money can be budgeted from the faith promise giving to subsidize the missionaries' offerings.

When an unexpected scheduling conflict arises, rather than canceling the missionary service, make room for the missionary to give a ten-minute presentation. Utilize your missionary guests in your Sunday school classes as well. Don't forget other occasions such as men's breakfasts, house meetings and fellowship groups.

Always give your congregation the opportunity to respond to the missionary appeal with a generous offering. Both your congregation and the missionary will be blessed.

Remember, were it not for the missionary visit, you and your congregation would have no way to obey the Great Commission other than to sell everything and go yourselves to the "regions beyond"! Maybe you ought to praise God for the missionary visit!

For more information on how to get the most from the missionary visit, order volume 5, *Building Missions Partnership through the Missionary Visit.*

PART 3

COORDINATED PRAYER FOR MISSIONARIES IS A KEY ELEMENT

We become partners with our missionaries when we support them either by giving monthly support or by praying for them on a regular basis. When we fail to give, the missionary feels the effects of that loss. When we fail to pray, we weaken the missionary's effectiveness. There is no question about it. Our missionaries depend on us to support them in prayer.

As leaders we have a responsibility to do more than share an urgent request that we receive in a newsletter. We must approach prayer for missionaries as their lifeline! When we look at prayer for the missionaries as the most important thing that we can do for the missionaries it will change our attitude about prayer. (For an in depth guide on this subject, order volume 4 of the Blueprint Series, *Building Missions Effectiveness through Prayer.*)

Make Prayer for Missions a Regular Part of Church Life

- Publish the names of the missionaries that you support in your bulletin on a rotating basis.
- Include missionary requests in your prayer list or in your weekly bulletin.
- Pray publicly for urgent missionary needs.
- Distribute a list of the missionaries supported by your church including the names of their children, ages and special days.
- Form missions prayer groups for each region of the world or, if the church is not large enough for several groups, focus your intercession on a different region each month.
- Place pictures of missionaries around the walls of the sanctuary with details of their location and ministry. During special prayer the people can move from one area to another, interceding for the missionaries by name and need.

Encourage Private Prayer for Missions

It's not enough to direct the congregation in corporate prayer for missions and missionaries. Church leadership must, not only encourage, but also equip church membership for effective intercessory prayer for missions in their private devotions. This can be done by providing them with:

- Frequent updated prayer lists of missionary needs
- A subscription for each family for the Call to Prayer for World Missionaries (see description below)
- A free copy of the Missionary and Chaplain Prayer Guide for U.S. Missionaries for each family (see description below)

Equip Your Congregation for More Effective Prayer

For decades church leadership has encouraged the membership to pray for missionaries, but few tools were provided to make those prayers knowledgeable

and effective. Now AGWM has made available a variety of tools that will assist those members who are serious about becoming prayer intercessors for missions and missionaries.

- **Subscribe To *Call To Prayer For Every Family*.**

This magazine is published twice yearly and contains the pictures of each of the missionaries on the date of their birth. In the course of a year you will have prayed for every missionary in Assemblies of God World Missions. Included also is a section with the names and birth dates of the missionaries' children (MKs).



- **Enroll In The Free E-Mail Service *Prayernet*.**

Current prayer requests for missionaries, the missionary work, crises and disasters are made available through the offices of World Missions and can be secured by subscribing on-line: agwmprayer@ag.org Missionary prayer needs are forwarded daily as received. These can be shared on prayer lists, in prayer groups or in regular services as deemed necessary.

- **Subscribe To *Intercessor & World Report***

This one page weekly fax or e-mail publication provides urgent missionary and country prayer needs and short articles about missionary ministries a round the world. Sent on Tuesday afternoons, it is an ideal tool to inspire a congregation to pray for missions, especially during midweek services. Articles can be read from the pulpit, included in the church bulletin or posted in the church. (See Part 2 for more information on how to order these and other materials.)



Prayer Materials Produced By U.S. Missions

- **Missionary and Chaplains Prayer Guide**

The Prayer Guide is a pictorial directory of U.S. missionaries and chaplains, according to their birth dates, and includes spouses and children. Free

- **U.S. Missions Prayer Team Weekly E-Mail**

Join the U.S. Missions prayer team and receive weekly prayer needs and praise reports from your U.S. missionaries and chaplains. To subscribe, e-mail join-agusmprayerteam@news.ag.org .

PART 4

CREATE AN ATTRACTIVE MISSIONS DISPLAY

It is not difficult to determine the place that missions holds in the life of the congregation just by a casual stroll through the lobby and hallways, in an extremely large number of churches, unfortunately, there will be no evidence of missions at all. Others will have a bulletin board and/or missionary commitment certificates displayed, but with little care and in an area seen by few people.

It is a delight to enter a church and see an attractive missions display prominently placed in such a way that says, "Missions is a priority here!" It doesn't require a fortune to create such a display, but it does require a real heart for missions.

WHERE SHOULD IT BE LOCATED?

- A clean wall in a well-trafficked area in the lobby.
- It must be well lighted and attractive.

WHAT IS NEEDED TO CREATE A "WORLD HARVEST" DISPLAY?

- A bulletin board for newsletters from missionaries and other late-breaking missions news, etc.
- Assign a missions team member to update the materials at least bi-weekly.
- Surround it with the certificates of monthly support for the missionaries.
- Include a curio case for curios from missionaries and missions trips made by the church.
- Use globe wall art as the centerpiece of the display.
- Listed below is information that will assist you in securing a wall sculpture for your missions display.



Brass Hemispheres
#100269

www.cowboyindian.com

Price: \$380



New World Globe Wall
#38268

www.blair.com

Price: \$99.99

PART 5

DEVELOP A STRONG MISSIONS SECTION IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

This is the information age. Resource material is available everywhere on every subject imaginable. But wait. Did I say, “Every subject, everywhere?” What about missions in the church library? Too often it is a subject totally overlooked or so outdated that it is embarrassing. If we have to apologize for our section on missions in our library, we need to do something about it!

Listed below are books recommended for the missions section in your church library.

Assemblies of God Authors.

Heroes of the Faith Series – AGWM

Heroes of the Faith 1 - \$2

Heroes of the Faith 2 - \$3

Heroes of the Faith 3: Sacrifice and Triumph - \$3

Heroes of the Faith 4: Compelled by Compassion - \$3

Heroes of the Faith 5: When God Breaks Through - \$4.50

High Adventure in Tibet – David Plymire – AGWM - \$2

Reign of Terror – Reign of Grace – Jerry Falley – AGWM - \$3

All of the books listed below this line may be purchased by our churches at a discount at 4 Wrd Book Connection in Springfield, Missouri, a ministry operated by Gary Flokstra. Their telephone is (417) 862-4448 and Fax is (417) 863-9994

E-mail bookconnect@4wrd.org Website: www.4wrd.org

Eye on Europe – Greg Mundis

Missions in the Age of the Spirit – John V. York

Partnership in Missions – Morris Williams

People of the Spirit – Gary McGee

Strategy of the Spirit – J. Philip Hogan, Everett A. Wilson

The Essential J. Philip Hogan – Byron Klaus, Doug Peterson

The Globalization of Pentecostalism – Murray Dempster, Byron Klaus, Doug Peterson

The Indigenous Church – Melvin Hodges

The Missionary Family – Betty Jo Kenney

Other Books of Great Value

Healing the Broken Family of Abraham: New Life for Muslims – Don McCurry

Ismael, My Brother – Anne Cooper

Jesus in Beijing – David Aikman

Missions in the Third Millennium: 21 Key Trends for the 21st Century – Stan Guthrie

Operation World – Patrick Johnstone, Jason Mandryk – Bethany House

Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God's Agenda – Henry and Richard Blackaby

The Church is Bigger Than You Think: Structures and Strategies for the Church in the 21st Century – Patrick Johnstone

The Missions Addiction: Capturing God's Passion for the World – David Shibley

Be Sure to Include Audio-Visual in the Missions Section Your Library

Newsbreak, WorldBeat and go 360

A good place to start is to catalog these videos, received on DVD each month by subscription, after they have been shared with the appropriate age groups. Their information and inspiration value will continue for many months, but their historic value will last for years.

World Focus CD

This CD presents a summary of each country where the Assemblies of God is involved in missions work. A great resource tool!

Support Ministries

Be sure to save and catalog all audio-video materials received from our Support Partners after their initial use.

PART 6

PLAN A MISSIONS TRIP

An annual missions convention, well-planned missions Sundays and frequent missionary speakers all help bring the needs of a dying world into focus, but there is nothing that will make a more powerful and permanent impact than a trip to the mission field.

Of course not everyone can go, but for those who do, it brings a transformation. They will never be the same! In fact, once they have experienced missions, however briefly, they want to go again and again. Many will take vacation time and pay their own expenses just to feel that they are serving God during this week or ten days each year.

Upon the return of the team, give the team a Sunday evening service to share their missions' experiences. Their new enthusiasm and passion for the lost will influence many others. Missions giving should increase as a result of the clearer focus on the mission field.

Many churches will sponsor one or more trips each year, both in the U.S. and overseas. Maybe you can't sponsor a trip each year, but you could sponsor a smaller group every two or three years. Give it a try. If that is still not within your reach, partner with another church or go on a district sponsored trip.

It won't happen unless you make it happen. So just do it! Listed below are some of the groups within the Assemblies of God that sponsor missions' trips. Pick the one that best meets the needs of your congregation and give them a call today.

AMBASSADORS IN MISSION (AIM)

Since 1966, thousands of Assemblies of God youth have been involved in evangelistic ministry through Ambassadors in Mission, an outreach of the national Youth Department. During one to two week terms of service, young people use puppetry, drama, music, mime, crusades and one-on-one witnessing to tell others about Christ. AIM teams work closely with missionaries and national pastors to integrate new converts into local churches.

We know another agency that is sponsoring a youth trip overseas. Won't it give the same result if we send our young people with them? What do you really know about the agency? What do you know about their doctrine? What do you know about those who will be in charge of your teenagers? What will the circumstances be on the field? If you can't know the answers to all of these questions, then you had better know the reputation of those who will be in charge on the field. That is where the Assembly of God missionaries excel. You may not know each one of them personally, but you know their reputation and that is important when you send to the foreign field your most valued treasures – your young people!

MAPS CONSTRUCTION TEAMS

What is MAPS CONSTRUCTION?

MAPS CONSTRUCTION exists to serve the church by...

- Working with AGWM missionaries in assessing building needs
- Locating people and finances to assist in overseas construction projects
- Accelerating the spread of the gospel by building churches, Bible schools and other ministry centers around the world
- Providing opportunities for U.S. believers to participate in the worldwide spiritual harvest

MAPS CONSTRUCTION helps missionaries by assisting with...

- Strategic planning, architectural and engineering services
- Providing construction teams
- Providing ministry teams
- Financial resources

MAPS CONSTRUCTION makes U.S. churches and believers aware of missions ministry around the world by...

- Sharing the ongoing need for workers and finances for a variety of construction projects. In most cases teams provide funds for all materials used while working on the project.
- Providing opportunities for U.S. believers to become actively involved in world missions by joining a construction team. Most teams range from 12 to 15 people.
- Linking church teams to AGWM missionaries who will supervise and coordinate the building project. The entire team can be from one church or from multiple congregations.

To ensure that U.S. teams and overseas missionaries have a positive experience during MAPS CONSTRUCTION trips, AGWM has established these guidelines:

All team members must

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Be believers in good standing with the local church and agree to all policies set forth by AGWM.

All MAPS CONSTRUCTION teams must

- Be registered with the MAPS Construction office. To register, call (417) 862-2781, extension 2067.
- Be under the direct supervision of an AGWM missionary.
- Obtain overseas insurance – a requirement when working with an AGWM missionary.

We have a group wanting to do some construction work overseas. Can we accomplish the same thing if we go with another denomination or a para-church group? That's a good question. Although we are certainly not opposed to the work of other missions agencies, the truth is, you just don't know

what kind of situation you are going to find when you get to the field. Too many times, those who have gone with other groups have discovered their mistake only when it was too late. Some have returned with horror stories about what happened on their trip. Or worse yet, our own missionaries have told us of teams from A/G churches have come to the field and built buildings, not just for non-Pentecostal churches, but churches that oppose Pentecost. Now, that is just wrong and it doesn't have to happen.

Can we work directly with the missionary on the field without working with the offices in Springfield? When you attempt to by-pass the coordinating office and work directly with the missionary, you put that missionary under tremendous pressure. The missionary knows that they are to receive approval and coordination for every project and every group who comes to their field. This places that missionary in a position of knowing what they must do, but not wanting to offend their supporting church.

When a group goes out without going through MAPS Construction, they do not have the advantage of the overseas insurance. On more than one occasion uninsured team members have become extremely ill or have died on the field, necessitating expensive transportation costs that might have been covered had proper provision been made.

There are rules, but they are not arbitrary. AGWM has a long track record and the rules have been established for the protection of everyone involved.

PRAYER TASK FORCE

Each year Prayer Task Force teams, coordinated under the supervision of a Task Force representative of AGWM, travel to other nations. Their purpose is to offer support to missionaries and the work of missions in a particular location through the team's ministry of prayer and fasting and to assist in evangelism efforts.

Team members must be mature, dedicated Christians, 16 years or older. Both singles and couples are welcome. Teams are composed of ministers and laity. Men's and Women's Ministries groups, church organizations, and Light-for-the-Lost teams often participate in Prayer Task Force teams.

These teams are needed to work with missionaries in countries or areas where new doors of opportunity have opened for evangelism or where resistance to the gospel has made ministry difficult.

Any individual or group desiring to participate on a Prayer Task Force team should contact the Missions Awareness Team Office, 1445 N. Boonville, Springfield, MO 65802-1894 or call 417-862-2781, Ext. 2050.

PART 7

INTRODUCE SUPPORT MINISTRIES TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION

Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade

BGMC as it is usually called is best known for Buddy Barrel, used by the children to collect coins, which are then brought to place in the missionary offerings. Now, for the rest of the story, as Paul Harvey would say.

Since 1949 Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade has served as the children's missions education and fund-raising program of the Assemblies of God. Sponsored by the Assemblies of God Children's Ministries Agency/Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade, it provides free children's missions education curriculum and resources to participating churches. Money given by children to BGMC provides missionaries with funds to translate and print literature, purchase Sunday school materials, Bibles and children's evangelism materials, and provide libraries and textbooks for overseas Bible schools.

Speed the Light

The Speed the Light program of the national Youth Department has involved Assemblies of God young people in giving to world missions since 1944. Speed the Light funds provide transportation and communication equipment to missionaries, enabling them to take the gospel farther and faster.

Youth from across the United States commit their personal funds to faith promise giving, as well as hold fund-raisers and collect donations, to purchase equipment for missionaries. The money raised has provided hundreds of missionaries with cars, trucks, motorcycles, horses and other means of transportation.

Light for the Lost

Light for the Lost is a ministry of Assemblies of God laymen that provides evangelism literature for use around the world. LFTL literature is used by missionaries in witnessing door-to-door, in marketplaces, and during evangelism and church planting efforts. Often literature is mailed to areas where missionaries cannot go. Since its inception Light for the Lost has raised more than \$216,000,000 for literature for evangelism.

Women's Ministries

The Women's Ministries Department was founded with the purpose of ministering to missionaries and their families through prayer and the provision of material goods. Since 1925, women across the United States have given generously to supply household needs for missionaries. Their gifts have also provided items, such as beds, curtains and kitchen appliances, for Bible schools and children's homes around the world.

Senior Adult Ministries

Senior adults are a vital and growing facet of the church. Increasingly, they are becoming involved in world missions through their prayers and financial gifts. By joining their efforts to specific causes overseas, senior adults within a church, a section or a district are raising funds to expand the Kingdom and are interceding for specific needs faced by nations, national believers and individual missionaries.

PART 8

KEEP THE MISSIONARIES BEFORE THE PEOPLE

Most people will not remember a missionary who spoke for 25 minutes (or maybe just 10 minutes) four or five years ago. That missionary has little hope of being remembered in prayer unless he or she is kept before the congregation. There are many creative ways of doing this. The benefits that accrue for the missionary are not just through prayer but also by being remembered on special days and receiving encouraging notes from time to time. Partnerships develop that can last a lifetime and it all started because leadership kept the names and faces of the missionaries before the congregation on a regular basis.

Missionary Directory

Many churches produce a directory containing the photographs of the missionaries that they support along with details of their family, type and place of ministry. This serves as a great prayer tool as well. Of course, printing a directory is beyond the budgetary possibilities of many smaller churches. They say, however, "Where there is a will, there is a way".

Numerous churches request a quantity of prayer cards from each of the missionaries that they support. Once collected, they punch a hole in each card and run a key chain through each set of cards. When finished they give a set of prayer cards to each church family to use in their prayer time. The cost? Almost nothing. The Impact? Immeasurable!

Missionary Calendar

It is not unusual for our churches to now print their own calendars with the date of activities for the coming year. Some smaller churches even include the birthdays of their members. If your church prints a calendar, why not include the birthdays of the missionaries supported by the church? This gives one more opportunity to be reminded that they are our partners, although far removed from us.

Call to Prayer

Published semiannually, *Call to Prayer*, is a pictorial directory of world missionaries – listed according to their birth dates – which can be used as a daily guide for praying for individual missionaries. The two issues each year form a directory of all missionaries with AGWM. It is another great tool for keeping the missionaries before your congregation. Why not subscribe for each family in your church?

Keep the Missionaries before the Congregation – Literally

Many churches are now taking advantage of the time prior to the beginning of the service, while people are beginning to gather, to project the pictures of the missionaries on the screen with information concerning their field, ministry and family. These are placed on a loop and repeat until time for other announcements or the beginning of the service. Now, that is a great idea!

PART 9

OFFER CLASSES ON MISSIONS

If we truly want our people to be missions minded, then we have to make missions a priority in the agenda of our church. It is easy enough to see what part missions occupies in the church program by simply looking over an average three month schedule of church services and activities. During those three months, how often was missions represented and to what degree?

Unfortunately, in far too many churches, there will be none. How do we know? Because last year over 2,000 Assembly of God churches gave nothing to World Missions! In many other churches the only mention would be a passing reference to the fact that it is missions Sunday.

O.K. So the world is not perfect, but can we dream of what might be? Wouldn't it be great if, in addition to an annual missions convention and a well-planned monthly missions Sunday, we had some other resources that we could use from time to time to help us teach missions to our congregation?

Although not an abundant assortment, the materials that we have found are excellent in content and can be used to good advantage. Listed here are some recommended resources. Under each type of setting you will find suggested uses of the material.

Books

Missions: Home and Abroad by Delmer Guynes - GPH

Develop a passion for missions. Examine the Great Commission, biblical role models, people and church patterns, intercessory prayer, the Holy Spirit, and the will of God. 13 studies.

Missions: Home and Abroad Student Guide Item #02TW0126 Price: \$2.50

Missions: Home and Abroad Leader Guide Item #02TW0226 Price: \$9.95

Into All the World by Joyce Wells Booze – AGWM

A history of Assemblies of God World Missions from its inception until the decade of the 80's. (74 pages) Price: \$2.50

Building Missions Leadership in the Local Church by Paul Brannan –

AGWM - A five page digest of the above history is included in this manual under the title **A History of Assemblies of God World Missions** by Joyce Wells Booze Price: \$4.50

Mission Statement – AGWM

A five page booklet that gives an explanation of reaching, planting, training and touching – the Assemblies of God missions statement. Price: 15¢ each

Audio-Visual

Video – The Pillars of Our Mission – AGWM

Explores the Lord's command to make disciples of all nations, and the key pillars of our mission: reaching, planting, training and touching. What distinguishes our

mission is not merely our obedience to each of the four mandates, but how all four work together. *Running time 5:50* Price: \$10

Video – Newsbreak

Don't forget Newsbreak, sent monthly by subscription for just \$48 annually. These 2- to -3 minute DVD presentations present the work of Assemblies of God missionaries and the overseas fellowship. A Spanish clip is included each month.

CD – Missions Faith Promise PowerPoint

Presents the implementation and follow-through of the Faith Promise plan. It is accompanied with a shorter and a longer narration. Price: \$10

World Focus CD – AGWM

This CD has summaries of each country where the Assemblies of God is involved with missions work. Price: \$3

An Elective in Sunday School or Small Study Group

Since Missions: Home and Abroad is written with 13 lessons, it is ideal for use as a quarterly for an elective in either a Sunday school class or a small group study. Into all the World could be used by the leader as a resource to give information concerning the formation and growth within our own movement, or the five page history digest, History of Assemblies of God World Missions, could be reproduced and distributed to each student.

It would be great to flavor this series with an occasional Newsbreak video, giving current information about what is happening now on the field. Including the six minute video The Pillars of Our Mission in one of the classes would help the participants understand, not only our methods, but our biblical mandate for being involved in missions. Handing out the Missions Statement during this class would give them something tangible, containing the same information, which they can study more carefully at home.

New Convert's Class

The new convert's class is another matter, since it is usually limited to, at most, two or three hours. Even if the time devoted to training new converts is of longer duration, there are many subjects that must be taught during that period to help establish the new believer in the faith.

Although time will be limited, we must include missions in the lesson plan. If not, the new believer has no way of knowing that we believe that missions is a priority! We can at least communicate two points: (1) Why we get involved in missions, and (2) How we get involved personally in missions.

To answer why we get involved, we can use the six minute video, The Pillars of Our Mission. This will help them understand the biblical reasons why. To answer how we can get involved, we need to keep it simple at this point. A brief explanation of our annual missions convention, the faith promise plan and monthly missions Sunday should help them understand the participation of the individual believer.

Membership Class

The membership class usually offers the same challenge as the new convert's class in terms of time limitations. It is absolutely essential that we share with the potential members their responsibilities in the area of missions. Simply stated, Jesus commanded the Church to evangelize the world. In becoming members of this body of believers, they are accepting their responsibility to join with the body in praying and giving in order to fulfill the mandate of Christ! That issue should not be debatable!

We need to answer the same two issues that were mentioned when discussing the new convert's class: why and how. The why could be handled exactly the same as suggested in the new convert's class above. This gives a solid biblical basis and also shows the methods used to follow those mandates. That will answer the "why".

We must be more specific in presenting how the new members will become involved. There should not be any ambiguity. Everyone needs to understand from the beginning what is expected from them in terms of missions commitment. Here is where we explain about Faith Promises. The Missions Faith Promise PowerPoint CD can be adapted to the time available to explain how millions of believers are fulfilling the Great Commission every month with their faithful giving. We must help them realize that it is not about money, it is about commitment! It is not about the amount, it is about obedience!

PART 10

DON'T OVERLOOK THE CHILDREN

While speaking to children's pastors and leaders, most have referred to BGMC as a critical component of their teaching, promotion and the raising of funds for missions. This comes as no surprise. Thank God for all the committed workers at each level of BGMC.

There are other ideas as well. Some are general in nature. Some were mentioned repeatedly and others were so obvious that they were not mentioned at all. Let's take a look first at some of the more obvious ideas and then you will find listed in some detail a few excellent ideas with the name of the church and the person who submitted the information in case you wish to inquire further.

Ideas, Ideas and More Ideas

- Show the go 360 video every month on Missions Sunday
- Use Buddy Barrel and promotional materials from BGMC (See variation of this theme in the notes from James River about the M and M mini tube).
- Sing missions songs and choruses
- Have missionaries speak to the children and give altar calls, or
- Have the missionary's spouse or older child speak in children's church while the missionary is speaking in the sanctuary.
- Teach about and receive Faith Promises from the children during the missions convention and then present the total to be tallied with the sanctuary total at the end of their service.
- Make a monthly commitment from the children to support a missionary.
- Adopt a missionary family or the children of that family. Call AGWM for information.
- Use Reach Around the World, 52 Global Awareness Activities for Children and Youth (Bob and Sandy Friesen – GPH - # 02TW0464 - \$12.99)

Randy Jumper 1st Assembly North Little Rock, Arkansas

- Last year for Family week (our VBS) we challenged kids to help start churches in the Congo. In one week the kids gave money to start a church in 2 places in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo with Todd Churchill.
 - Dozens of kids have raised money through lemonade stands, garage sales, giving to plant churches. One 5 year old gave up Christmas/Birthday for 2 years to plant a church in Tanzania with Scott Hanson. Another group of kids planted one in Rwanda with Billy Wilson.
-

Jeff Mead, Children's Pastor, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

- Ketchup Sunday – Something that you can do if your BGMC giving is not where you think it should be. You promote “Ketchup Sunday” where children, as well as the adults can participate. You can do it after either a Sunday morning or Sunday evening service. The children’s pastor as well as any other brave children’s workers who are willing will stand in a child’s wading pool (no water) in the parking lot. Ketchup is sold: a small ketchup packet, for a quarter or 50 cents, a bottle for \$3 to \$ 5 dollars, and a gallon can for around \$10. They get to pour the ketchup on the children’s pastor.
- Teach at least once a month on missions, with not too much emphasis on raising the money yet. I believe children need to understand the what, and why of missions. During a service place a certain number of children around the room and have them separated from the rest. Then serve clear kool-aid to the rest of the kids. Make it a point to show that the kids that were separated can’t come, and we need to think of a way for them to get their drink. Teach them the only way the other kids will get it, is by having someone take it to them. This is a great way of teaching about missions. The world has a lot people who can’t come to our church to hear about the saving grace of Christ, and that we need people to go to them.
- Have a missions convention – Decorate rooms to look like different countries and have the people in each room dress for the country. Decorate the children’s church as an airport where they get passports and board a plane.
- Decorate a ship and loading Fire Bibles.
- Pick a project such as water wells in Africa, where they say the nearest well is about 50 miles away. We found out how much it cost to dig a well and made that the BGMC project for the kids to raise the funds. I keep them updated on how the project is going.
- Anytime you do a project, give kids a package where they can look for donations. Looking outside the church is better, since everyone in the church is doing fund raisers. A bowl a thon, bike a thon, putt-putt golf tournament, go cart racing (having local celebrities race against the pastors is also a good idea). The kids are able to go to the neighbors and show them in writing why you’re trying to raise money. Whoever raises the most gets a great prize.
- All the kids that meet a certain goal win a free trip to an amusement park.

Jessica Wimmel, Asst. Elementary Director, James River Assembly, Ozark, Missouri

At James River our goal is to share the love of Jesus with every child and empower the emerging generation to impact the world with the Gospel! One of the ways we do that is by helping children develop a missions-minded perspective. BGMC is the primary mode of missions giving that we utilize at JamesRiverKids. Throughout the year children are encouraged to save their coins for regular BGMC offerings and special projects so that other kids around the world can have the opportunity to hear about Jesus.

There are two times during the year that we have designated for doing a special missions emphasis in the elementary ministry, February & December.

- Every year during the month of February, James River Assembly devotes a week for a Missions Convention. Several missionary speakers from various types of ministries are invited to speak & set up booths. There is a flag parade in the main sanctuary, as well as other special events throughout that week. The Elementary program participates in this event during the children's services. Last year, we decorated the children's auditorium with flags & banners depicting various nations & people groups, we devoted all offerings specifically to BGMC and interviewed a former Missionary's Kid on stage about missions work, it's importance, what it looked like for his specific family, etc. We set aside time at the end of the service for the kids to ask the MK various questions about his life. They really enjoyed the interaction as well as the perspective from another kid (even though he was a teen by then). We also showed the kids a portion of a video clip for that year's missions project. That year James River raised money for World Serve to purchase drilling rigs for clean water wells in Africa. We specifically talked to the kids about the need to provide for people's basic needs as a way to demonstrate God's love and to open doors for pastors/missionaries to further the gospel (in this case, the drilling was in predominantly Muslim villages).
- In December the elementary ministry has used the month to talk about the birth and life of Christ leading up to the Christmas holiday. Specifically emphasizing that Jesus is God's gift to us because of his sacrifice on the Cross, we can give a gift back to God when we give money to missionaries, because they tell other boys & girls around the world about Jesus.
- During the Katrina relief efforts James River adopted a church that had lost everything, to help get them back on their feet so they could serve their community. The kids were challenged to bring in offerings to purchase new children's curriculum for this church as well as bring in bandages to send them (the church was helping with local first aid efforts).

Some of the things we do on a regular basis to talk about missions with the kids:

- On a weekly basis we talk about giving in general during offering time in the kid's chapel services. We select a verse to highlight each month that specifically addresses giving; its importance, why we tithe & give offerings to missions, some of the ways God uses our giving to bless others as well as bless us and so on.
- We have recently setup an M&M mini's container program with the kids as a way to get them excited about giving to BGMC. We give each child an M&M Mini's candy tube (available at most grocery stores or price clubs). The kids are challenged to take the candy home so they can eat it and then fill the container with coins & dollar bills (silver coins only, no pennies). When a child brings back a "full" tube (at least $\frac{3}{4}$ full) they receive another candy filled one to take home & continue the process. It has been a great way to get them excited

about missions; they get an immediate incentive and it mixes up the routine of using their buddy barrels for a little while.

- We have also done contests between the boys & girls for a specified period of time to see who can bring in the most BGMC offerings. Not too long ago we did a contest, where the winning group would determine the “craziness” of a new haircut for the children’s pastor. The boys won the contest and his hair was shaved into a Mohawk on stage and was then dyed half blue and half green. The kids absolutely loved it! It also brought the kid’s giving to the attention of the whole staff & church body because it was hard to not notice the dramatic hairstyle change and prompted questions on why he did it.
 - When it comes to home missions, as an “in-house” ministry we try to continually teach the kids that they can be a part of sharing god’s love in their own families, neighborhoods and schools; giving them specific scenarios and examples. And that there are even kids who visit KidzBlast (elementary) that may not know Jesus so they can participate in leading them to Jesus by welcoming them, being their friend and by not distracting them from hearing the day’s lesson.
-

Jan Crowley, Administrative Assistant - Christian Ed, Missions, Children's Ministries at First Assembly of God Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Children’s Ministries at First Assembly of God provides financial support for BGMC through a number of ways that expose the children to Missions Giving and Service.

- Each month the first Sunday of the month is called “BGMC” Sunday. The kids (preschool through grade 6) are sent a postcard (pre-printed with a reminder note from Pastor Jan with the bulk mailing indicia) reminding them to bring their Buddy Barrels next Sunday. On BGMC Sunday Pastor Jan shows a video and/or speaks about Missions during Children’s Chapel for grade school children. When they take the offering the children empty their buddy barrels into a four foot tall lighted “Stoplight” Bank. There is one for the girls & one for boys. They compete for which group brings the most BGMC offering, the winning gender receiving 5 quints each. Our Children’s Church is called “Construction Zone” – hence the use of the “Stoplight” Bank.
- Quints are our form of reward – see the following page explaining the earning/use/redemption of quints.
- The Corner Store (in a converted classroom) offers a variety of merchandise for sale – cash or quints are accepted. All profits are given to BGMC. There is an adult supervisor in the store, with many older children/youth helpers. The store is open one half hour prior to Wednesday evening activities as well as between services & after second service on Sundays. The helpers are a part of the MTA program (Ministry Team Assistants). Each year children ages 10 – 18 go through an application and interview process in order to be chosen to be a part of the Construction Zone Leadership Team and receive the title of MTA.

These students are responsible for a variety of different “Helps” ministries like Game Captains, Greeters Ushers, Technical team and Corner Store workers. They may also be involved with the Drama, Puppet, or Worship teams. As an integral part of the “team and in addition to their “job” each week, they are responsible for consistent attendance, maintaining a daily walk with God and exhibiting godly character in and outside of the church. MTA’s are rewarded & blessed for their faithfulness throughout the year with special activities and parties.

- Currently our youth do not have a “scheduled” program during second service which frees them for service to various ministries in the church – like Children’s Ministry.
- Annually we also hold a “BGMC” Bike-a-thon. Children Bikers obtain pledges for the number of laps they will ride on a Saturday morning around our parking lot. Prizes are awarded by age group/pledge amounts with proceeds benefiting BGMC.

Quints

- ? **What are they**
- ? **How do my kids get them**
and
- ? **What can they do with them**



Quints are a form of reward & “currency” for Children’s Ministry

Quints are earned by children for:

- 📖 Learning memory verses
- 📖 Doing activity sheets when available
- 📖 Bringing their Bible
- 📖 Bringing a friend
- 📖 Bringing their Buddy Barrel on BGMC* Sunday
- 📖 Answering questions when called on in Children’s Church or Wednesday evenings
- 📖 Participating in Children’s church games & activities
- 📖 Children receive a quint when leaving Children’s Church if they turn in their nametag.



Quints have an approximate value of 20 cents and can be used to:

- \$ Play games before Children’s Church
- \$ Buy Drinks in Higher Grounds Coffee Shop (no change given for Quints)
- \$ Purchase items from the Corner Store (cash may also be used alone or combined with Quints)

Many children choose to save up their quints to make a large purchase in the Corner Store. After saving 100 quints they may be exchanged for a certificate worth 110 Quints.

***BGMC** – Boys & Girls Missionary Crusade is the Assemblies of God Missions organization for children. Cash proceeds from the Corner Store and contributions on BGMC Sunday (first Sunday of the month) go toward BGMC.



Dennis Daywitt, Children's Pastor, Oak Creek Assembly of God, Oak Creek, Wisconsin

- The kids support two children at Mission of Mercy in Calcutta, India at \$60 monthly. They correspond with them, sending drawings, pictures and letters.
- Locally they fill stockings at Christmastime for needy children in Milwaukee.
- During the adult missions convention each Fall they celebrate their own week of "Kidvention", even with their own "banquet" – hotdogs, pizza, etc.
- Trade-up Week – Pastor Dennis gives each a penny. The children go to friends and ask to trade for a larger denomination. They keep trading up until the end of the week when the money is collected for BGMC. Note: Leave Mom, Dad and Grandparents until last!
- Talents Week – Remember the parable of 1, 5, and 10 talents? Pastor Dennis gives each child a one dollar bill and asks them to multiply the investment in the project of their choice (run errands, lemonade stand, etc.). Once again they bring their original dollar along with the profit on that investment and give it for missions.

D. Wendel Cover, Pastor, Word of Life Assembly of God, Springfield, Virginia

There are numerous things that we do to keep missions alive for our children and youth.

- We show missions videos provided by AGWM.
- We promote missions projects such as Speed the Light and BGMC.
- We sponsor missions trips for our youth to other countries through AIM.
- We are currently building a new children's center with a new children's missions room.
 - This will be decorated with a motif of children from different countries.
 - Computers to interact with missions children and keep them up to date on our missions projects and happenings around the world.
- Missionary songs are sung and opportunities are given to respond to altar calls.
- We have many, many missionary speakers who visit our children and youth.
- The first and third Sundays are Missions Sundays.
 - First Sunday is for the support of our career missionaries
 - Third Sunday is for projects
- Having people in our church from over 100 countries makes us all missions minded. When there are disaster situations in other countries, it affects families of our church and gives us another reason to do missions.

It's Not Just About Money

Although many of the ideas listed in Part 10 focus on fund raising, that is not the primary purpose of the leaders' efforts. Their desires are to build the Kingdom. Thank God these leaders and many others who know how to use the tools at hand to teach the children about missions. Let's not mistake the motive behind their suggestions. They are focused on teaching young minds.

If our focus is just on receiving offerings, raising money from others and running contests, we have missed the most important point: teaching the children two important reasons why we do it. 1. To evangelize the world, 2. Because Jesus told each one of us to become personally involved.

1. To evangelize the world – Simply stated, although we use many motivators, we must be able to communicate successfully that the reason we do these things is not just to win a contest, but to help a child who has never heard of Jesus!
2. Because Jesus told each one of us to become personally involved – Jesus gave the Great Commission to the Church. We are the Church, so we are responsible as individuals. Oswald J. Smith, the great missions pastor for so many years at the People's Church in Toronto, Canada built missions in that church on the principle that every person from the elder, deacon, choir member, right on down to the child had to become involved, personally. In fact, every child from 7 years and up was taught to give to missions, regularly and consistently. He said that the parents do not give for the children. They are taught to give their own money! That is stewardship at its highest level!

PART 11

KEEP THE YOUTH FOCUSED ON MISSIONS

Speed the Light is the primary focus of most youth groups that have a missions involvement. For that reason, much of the activity of our youth groups across America is focused on providing transportation and audio-visual equipment for our missionaries. That's why you will see STL appear frequently in the submissions listed below.

Ideas In Brief

- Use WorldBeat youth video each month in service before receiving missions offering
- Sponsor a missionary family with a monthly commitment.
- Sponsor a well for a village in Africa or Latin America
- Go on an AIM trip in the U.S. or overseas.
- Raise extra funds for Speed the Light by parking cars at the fair or selling fireworks at the 4th of July.
- Do Saturday visitation or clean-up and repair work for a home missions church.
- Invite a missionary (or missionary kid – MK) to speak each quarter.
- Prepare skits and mime to promote missions in the sanctuary services.
- Use Reach Around the World, 52 Global Awareness Activities for Children and Youth (Bob and Sandy Friesen – GPH - # 02TW0464 - \$12.99)

Liz Goggin, Administrative Assistant from Rockford, Illinois

- 10% of weekly offering is sent to Speed the Light.
- Each week, a portion of offering that is brought in that is above and beyond our budgeted income is given towards Speed the Light.
- Annual Family night where parents and family members are invited & asked to bring a special missions offering to go towards Speed the Light.
- Annual Sunday morning Coin Drive: Students stand outside the church w/ buckets by the exits to receive change from cars lined up to leave.
- 1 month series (4 weeks) each year on the topic of missions.

Randy jumper, First Assembly North Little Rock, Arkansas

- Last year we had a missionary (Steve Lilly) come and talk to our students and they raised the money for a year to buy his STL vehicle.
- Every class (2007,2008, 2009, etc) planted a church last year with a missionary through weekly giving.
- The students also volunteer at the mission and work at our inner city church plant.

Chris May, Student Pastor, Eastside Assembly of God, Tucson, Arizona

- **Example** - We are a missions-minded church. Giving to missionaries is exemplified through our adults. We do not ask the students to do anything that we are not willing to do.
- **Prayer** - We bathe everything in prayer. We seek direction from the Lord as to what our goals should be and also for direction in reaching those goals.
- **Teaching** – We don't just ask the students to give money. We provide Biblical teachings on the principals of sacrificial giving.
- **Special STL Services** – We normally dedicate one Wednesday night youth service to Speed the Light each quarter.
- This year, the Lord laid on my heart to have 30 people from the youth group raise \$30,000. Each of these students would raise \$500 and then an adult from the church would match dollar for dollar up to the \$500. In the natural, this seemed almost impossible for that many students and leaders to reach such a high goal. However, we got over 25 participants the first Wednesday Night that I shared this. We encourage the students to give on a weekly basis, and provide many different avenues for fundraising and ideas for meeting their goals. We send out quarterly statements to the students to let them know where they are at in their giving.

Lasse Lund, Assistant to the Youth Pastor, Evergreen Christian Community, Olympia, Washington

FOS Youth Ministries is aware of our Biblical need to reach out to others around us. Matthew 28:19 clearly states that part of a Christian's mission here on earth is to share the Gospel with everyone, everywhere, and in every way possible. While our main focus is encouraging students to share their faith with those who are in their immediate vicinity, we also emphasize Global Missions as an important part of their walk with God. Although not every student is called to be a full-time missionary in another country, we teach our students that supporting those missionaries is an important discipline to practice.

Practically, we take a Speed-the-Light missions offering each and every Wednesday night during our Service. We give to the National office out of the funds collected there. We have also begun forming a Missions Committee as a part of our Adult Staff, with a former full-time missionary leading the charge. We see many short-term missions trips for student being spearheaded by that very team. We also plan on having STL emphasis nights periodically during our Wednesday services. In those, we will highlight Missionaries who are on the field, and the work that they are doing. That way, we connect students to those that they are supporting, and encourage them to support them even more.

Chris Lindberg, Youth Pastor at Sachse Assembly of God in Sachse, Texas has embarked on a high energy plan for raising funds for Speed the Light.

Chris writes, "Club365 is the same thing as Speed the Light. But for us we don't really promote (the name) STL, we promote Club365 since it really flows well with our name. The concept is simple if you give a dollar a day it will accumulate to \$365 in a year. For those that rise to this challenge we provide an awesome incentive. Our STL giving recently has been terrible, Already this year we are on target to reach \$40,000 to \$50,000 so fundamentally Club365 is our renewed effort to be advancing in the area of Missions."

GO AHEAD AND BREAK THE LAW

The law that says it's impossible (for you to excel or succeed). Listen, the greats of the past didn't accept the impossible, neither do great people today. They see the impossible as a dare, not a declaration, because they believe in actions, not words. At Live365 it is our passionate belief that Impossible is Nothing. With that belief strongly in our hearts, we are determined to raise \$50,000 for Speed the Light Missions.

Sure, there are those that will say that's impossible, you're too young. To us though, impossible is just a big word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they've been given, than to explore the power they have to change it. Impossible is not a fact. It's an opinion. Impossible is not a declaration. It's a dare. Impossible is potential. Impossible is nothing.

- **YOUR REWARDS FOR BREAKING THE LAW.**
 1. For Those Who Give \$52: Every student who gives \$52 to Club365 this next year will receive an authentic Speedo-the Light T-Shirt. That's only a buck a week.
 2. For Those Who Give \$365 Or More: Every student who gives \$365 or more to Club365 this next year will receive the following and be eligible for the bonus gifts: That's only \$7 a week.
 - ÷ An Authentic Speedo-The-Light T-Shirt.
 - ÷ The Ultimate Ticket To Ride: We want to give you the gift of adrenaline. So we've already reserved the entire Speed Zone Park for January 2008. That's 4 non-stop hours of heart racing action. Get behind the wheel on one of 3 Racing Tracks. Including Real Dragsters that take you from 0 to 70 in 3.5 seconds while pulling 2.5 G-forces as you race against 12 of your friends. Race into action against 15 friends on the Slick Track, and don't forget the Turbo Track where you can race.
- **CLUB365 BONUS'S FOR BREAKING THE LAW.**
 1. **CHAUFFEURED LIMO RIDE**: The top 10 student givers will ride in style to and from Speed Zone, while all their friends ride the buses. (*minimum of \$365 to be eligible to ride*)
 2. **WIN \$\$\$ CASH**: The top 3 student givers will not only win a ride in the limo, but win the following amazing gifts:
 - ÷ **1st PLACE GIVER**: \$500 gift certificate to Firewheel Mall.

- ÷ **2nd PLACE GIVER:** \$250 gift certificate to Firewheel Mall.
- ÷ **3rd PLACE GIVER:** \$100 gift certificate to Firewheel Mall.

ATTENTION: USE GIVING ENVELOPES (VERY IMPORTANT): *In order to accurately track your giving progress, ONLY money placed in properly filled out giving envelopes will be credited to your total 2007 giving amount. So, stick the money in the envelope or it doesn't count.*

Joseph Kellogg, Student Pastor, First Assembly of God, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

“I’m personally stoked about what God is going to do through our students this year. Last year we had 80 students and leaders go on three different missions trips from the Republic of Ireland to an Indian Reservation in Arizona. This year we are going on four missions trips to reach as many as possible. I really feel strong about discipleship that takes place every Thursday at WM (World M pact). And I’m ready to GO be the Good News to the world this Summer. Whatever it takes!”

World M pact meets every Thursday beginning the last Thursday in May from 8am to 5pm. The daily schedule includes prayer time, discipleship lessons, team building, ministry preparation, and servanthood activities.

Attendance to the Thursday meetings is required for all who wish to participate in the Summer ministry trips, but that’s not all. Read the list of expectations below.

- Faithful attendance to WM meetings and activities
 - Mandatory attendance to all church services
 - Keep sermon notes of Sunday and Wednesday mpact services
 - Must sit in the first four rows of every service
 - Be faithful to tithing, offerings, and STL giving to mpact
 - Choose and accountability partner and be accountable to group
 - Pray and read your Bible at least 30 minutes daily
 - Fast at least one meal weekly
 - Live a pure and holy life – one pleasing to God
 - Use wisdom in choosing TV shows and movies (no rated “R”)
 - No secular music
 - Use wisdom in choosing things you do, where you go, and what you say
 - Don’t date anyone who is a non-Christian
 - No dating during the Thursday WM and the missions trip
 - Keep confidential any personal matters shared by others in the group
 - Complete World M pact discipleship
 - Be on time and ready to participate
 - Attend missions trip
-

Is It Just Another Project Or Are They Being Established In The Faith?

To paraphrase the words of Jesus, “What shall it profit a congregation, if it raise a million dollars for missions but lose its own young people?” Someone may say, “Paul, what in the world are you talking about? Have you lost your mind?” And my answer is, “No, but we are losing our sons and daughters!”

It is altogether possible for us to involve them in the externals of good works while the internal need of transformation never takes place. The busyness of these activities binds the group together and that glue holds until they graduate from high school. The group dynamic is broken and there is little that they feel in common with the rest of the congregation if they have never been born again. Unfortunately, that is not an isolated case.

A study by George Barna, released in 2006, shows that despite strong levels of spiritual activity during the teen years, most twentysomethings disengage from active participation in the Christian faith during their young adult years – and often beyond that. In total, six out of ten (61%) twentysomethings were involved in a church during their teen years, but have failed to translate that into active spirituality during their early adulthood.

Gratefully, the statistics seem not to be quite so extreme within our own fellowship. Although no controlled study has been done in recent years, Jay Mooney, the National Youth Director for the Assemblies of God Youth Ministries, after a careful evaluation of the data from the Annual Church and Minister’s Reports and other information, estimates the loss rate to be well below 45%.

Should we, as the Publican, thank God that we are not as others who are losing so many more young people? Or, should we bow our heads and our hearts in sorrow as we ask God to forgive us for allowing the cares of this life to distract us from one of our major responsibilities – caring for our own and assuring their salvation.

So what is my primary concern? It is the spiritual welfare of these young people. Their souls are a number one priority! I am encouraged, however, as I read some of the responses of these Spirit-led youth pastors, but we need more – many more!

Not only do I think about the value of those twentysomething drop-outs, but I think of what they might have become. That young lady who might have become a missionary. That young man who might have become a strong missions pastor. Now, that young lady is just a statistic. And sadly, the young man is another. And both are lost!

Lord, help us reach our Jerusalem, even as we carry the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth!

PART 12

PASTOR, YOU ARE THE KEY TO SUCCESS!

The path you choose will determine where your congregation goes. Whether they become Great Commission Christians depends on the decisions that you make. You, as pastor, are the spiritual leader of your congregation. You have the opportunity to lead those under your care into obedience to the Great Commission. If you don't do it, no one else will. They will either walk in obedience to the command of Christ to carry this gospel to the whole world, or they will ignore that command and live in disobedience.

It's not your place to drive them, and not everyone will follow you, but you must give them a choice. I've noticed that when the pastor gets excited about reaching the world, most of the congregation will, too. Let's talk about a few things that will help you help them.

Plan Sufficient Time in the Missions Sunday Schedule

There is no doubt about it. Once the missions convention is over and the Faith Promises have been raised, the monthly Missions Sunday becomes the most important activity during the year! We must keep interest and enthusiasm high if we hope to maintain missions giving at a high level throughout the year. That can only happen with a well-planned monthly Missions Sunday.

This doesn't mean that the whole service on Missions Sunday has to be dedicated to missions, but it does require more than just an announcement that it time for your missionary offering. A well-planned and very effective missions presentation could last from eight to fifteen minutes and then the missions offering could be received.

The Sunday morning schedule is always full. Could there be some things that could be shortened on Missions Sunday or shifted to other Sundays? After all, this is Missions Sunday. Is it asking too much that missions hold a place of priority for fifteen minutes each month on Missions Sunday?

Participate in the Monthly Missions Team Meetings

Every pastor has a personal preference concerning committee meetings and whether he/she will attend. This is different. First, this is not a common committee. This is a missions team. The first priority of the church is to reach the world!

Some pastors chair their missions team, while other never attend a team meeting, claiming a lack of time. It may not be possible to attend all of the team meetings, but since the first priority of the church is to reach the world with the gospel, doesn't it make since that the pastor would make it a priority to attend when possible?

On the other extreme is the pastor who has not yet learned that the team is a resource, not just a rubber stamp. Give the team members opportunity to carry part of the load, dream dreams and see great visions of what we might yet accomplish before Christ comes again.

Schedule a Missionary Speaker, at Least Quarterly

Of all the things we can do to influence our congregation for missions, this is by far the quickest and simplest. It only takes a phone call or two, a note on the calendar and a reservation at a motel, all of which can be done in 30 minutes or less. But it is also one of those things that isn't raising a red flag and waving it in our faces, so we forget. We intended to, but....

There is no way that we can teach our people the importance of obedience to the Great Commission unless we show them, and we can't make any impression of the real importance of missions if we have fewer than four missionary speakers each year – That's just one each quarter. If we can't work that into our schedule our priorities are wrong!

In addition to having at least four missionaries each year for a full service you should also consider inviting some missionaries to stop by for a ten or fifteen minute window. This simply means that you give them a few minutes to present their ministry, receive an offering for them, and then continue with your service.

Preach Missions, Soul-winning, and Evangelism

The congregation must know that you, personally, love missions. They won't know that if you never preach about missions. Take a trip overseas. See the need first-hand. Get your spirit stirred. Then come back and stir their spirits.

Preach on soul-winning. The people of your congregation must realize the value of a soul – every soul. Many Christians are not stirred for their own unsaved family members, much less, the lost and dying of the world. We must change that.

Preach on their personal responsibility to witness to and win those around them and to make possible a witness to those they can't reach through their prayers and their faithful giving.

Set the Example in Prayer, Giving and Caring for the Lost

Some excellent sermonizers are failures as pastors because they fail to walk the walk. Other pastors are very poor pulpiteers, but their lives proclaim ever so clearly the gospel of Christ Jesus. Whatever we want our people to become, let us develop those traits and values within our own lives first. Then, and only then, will we begin to see the transformation take place within the lives of those who surround us.

In the last church that we pastored, several of us had the custom of gathering early on Sunday morning in the sanctuary to intercede for the days services and for lost souls. It was many years later that a very dear and faithful saint told me

that she learned to intercede for the lost while listening to me pray. I was humbled by the thought.

It is not enough that we receive the missionary offering. They will want to know if we made a Faith Promise and if it was generous. They will observe how we give in other appeals as well.

Our actions do speak louder than our words and our best sermons are not preached in the pulpit!

PART 13

PUT MISSIONS ON THE PLATFORM, NOT IN THE BUDGET!

I know. You looked at that twice, didn't you? Missions is too important to be limited to the budget. I mean budgeted items are usually forgotten by the congregation.

That reminds me of an experience I had when I accepted the pastorate of a church which hadn't had a missions convention for 19 years. I promptly began to make plans for a convention and announced it with enthusiasm. One of the board members came to me and said, "Pastor, I hope you won't be too disappointed with the results of the Faith Promises. You see, there are several of us who feel that once we pay our tithe, we shouldn't be bothered with any further appeals." He wanted missions kept in the budget. I wanted it on the platform.

The board had been very generous in their budgeted giving to missions, but it was all out of the general fund. The congregation had no personal participation and consequently, no obedience to the Great Commission. Fortunately, the majority of the congregation was ready to respond to the voice of the Holy Spirit when missions was no longer hidden in the budget, but brought to the platform.

We doubled our missions giving after that first convention. Three years later our church was in first place in missions giving in the district. In the last year of our pastorate there we averaged \$458 per capita in giving to AGWM.

Now do you understand? Missions is not an entry on a spreadsheet. Missions is heart and soul. Missions is flesh and blood of martyrs. Missions is the sacrifice of those who have gone before. Missions is the cry of the lost. Missions is the obedience of those who are proclaiming the Word right now. Missions is Jesus saying, Go. Missions is Jesus saying, Send. Missions is me saying, "Here I am, send me."

That's missions, and it doesn't belong in a budget! It belongs on the platform, and it belongs in the hearts and lives of our people! And that depends on you!